

I. Introduction

An area's transportation system is its lifeline, contributing to its economic prosperity and social well being. The importance of a safe and efficient transportation infrastructure cannot be overstressed. This system provides a means of transporting people and goods from one place to another quickly, conveniently, and safely. A well-planned system will meet the existing travel demands, as well as keep pace with the growth of the region. Duplin County recognized the importance of planning for future transportation needs and requested transportation planning assistance from the Transportation Planning Branch of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).

Duplin County is located in southeastern North Carolina and is bordered by Sampson, Wayne, Lenoir, Jones, Onslow, and Pender Counties. The geographic location of Duplin County is illustrated in Figure 2.

This report documents the development of the 2007 Duplin County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) shown in Figure 1. In addition, this report presents recommendations for each relevant mode of transportation in the County. A comprehensive transportation plan is developed to ensure that the transportation system will be progressively enhanced to meet the needs of the planning area. It will serve as an official guide, providing a well-coordinated, efficient, and economical transportation system that utilizes all modes of transportation. This document will be used by local officials to ensure that planned transportation facilities reflect the needs of the public, while minimizing the disruption to local residents, businesses, and the environment.

The purpose of this study is to examine present and future transportation needs of the area and develop a transportation plan to meet these needs. The plan recommends those improvements that are necessary to provide an efficient transportation system within the 2005-2035 planning period. The recommended cross-sections outlined in Appendix D for these improvements are based on existing and projected conditions.

The proposed Comprehensive Transportation Plan is based on the projected growth for the planning area as coordinated with the County Planners. It is possible that actual growth patterns will differ from those logically anticipated. As a result, it may be necessary to accelerate or delay the development of some recommendations found within this plan. Some portions of the plan may require revisions in order to accommodate unexpected changes in development. Therefore, any changes made to one element of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan should be consistent with the other elements.